

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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1. A method of performing a medical procedure comprising the steps of:
 - i) providing an intravascular stent;
 - ii) providing a balloon catheter having an inflatable balloon adjacent its distal end and an optically-transparent tube traversing the interior of the inflatable balloon;
 - iii) delivering the intravascular stent into a vascular lumen;
 - iv) positioning the balloon catheter in the vascular lumen such that the inflatable balloon is adjacent the intravascular stent;
 - v) providing an angioscope;
 - vi) inserting the angioscope into the balloon catheter such that the distal end of the angioscope is adjacent the optically-transparent tube; and
 - vii) visually monitoring the intravascular stent before, during or after deploying the intravascular stent.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein the optically-transparent tube defines a guide wire lumen and the angioscope is inserted therethrough.
3. The method of claim 1 wherein the intravascular stent is a balloon-expandable stent.
4. The method of claim 1 wherein the intravascular stent is a self-expanding stent.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein the intravascular stent is made of a photo-responsive polymer.

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